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October 11, 2000

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Hand Carry to  
Crystal Park 5, Floor 3 Room X12

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/641,394; Filed: August 18, 2000  
For: A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Valuating  
Natural Gas Contracts Using Weather-Based Metrics  
Inventors: Machado *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1481.0240000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form PTO/SB/17 (in duplicate);
2. Petition for Expedited Handling Of Foreign Filing License Under 37 C.F.R. § 5.11 *et seq.*;
3. Copy of the Application No. 09/641,394 as filed on August 18, 2000
4. Check No. 29098 in the amount of \$130.00 to cover Petition filing fee;
5. Return postcard.

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It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Raymond Millien  
Attorney for Applicants  
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Enclosures